

Abstract of the Disclosure

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY SETTING ROCKER
ARM CLEARANCES IN AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

A method for automatically setting valve clearances in internal combustion engines (also known as "tappet setting" or "valve lash setting") comprises a series of steps in which a rocker arm is set to a zero position that is recorded as a reference datum and an adjustment screw is then operated to set the rocker arm to a first reference position. The adjustment screw is then rotated through a predetermined angle so that the rocker arm is moved to a second reference position. The difference between the first and second reference positions and the predetermined angle are used to determine a coefficient relating the angular movement of the adjustment screw to linear movement of the rocker arm. The coefficient is then used to calculate the angular rotation of the adjustment screw required to set a predetermined valve clearance relative to the zero position. The initial adjustment of the rocker arm position serves to neutralize backlash in the valve drive train prior to setting the valve clearance. The method and associated apparatus may also be used to set the clearance between a rocker arm and other rocker arm actuated engine components.